

MEETING SUMMARY
DOWNTOWN BALLARD PARKING WORKGROUP
MARCH 19, 2004
BALLARD NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER
8:00 - 9:00 AM

ATTENDEES

Sue Allegra, All the Kings Flags & Ballard Chamber	Association Karen Lee Kimber, Swedish Medical Center Beth Miller, Ballard Chamber of Commerce
Kevin Carrabine, resident	Rob Mattson, Department of Neighborhoods
Scott Clark, Ballard Chamber & Scott Clark Designs	Randy Wiger, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
Steve Cohn, Ballard District Council	
Mary Hurley, Downtown Ballard Merchants	Notes prepared by Randy Wiger, SDOT

ACTION ITEMS

- SDOT staff will investigate zoning and use restrictions/regulations currently applicable to the Wilson Ford Lot at 5440 Leary Ave NW.
- SDOT staff will determine the possibility of having signs like those in neighborhoods near stadiums that list specific dates and will also check as to whether the new No Parking signs on Ballard Avenue NW are too low on the poles to comply with ADA requirements.
- SDOT staff will research possible options for changes to parking restrictions on Shilshole Ave NW near 24th Ave NW.
- SDOT staff will research benefits/drawbacks to meters on NW Market and also what the meter rates would be.
- SDOT staff will communicate workgroup's desire for the City to repair/improve the surface of the lot at Hiram E. Chittenden Locks due to the lot's ability to generate revenue through pay station installation.
- SDOT staff will investigate possibility of restricting the current taxi zone on 5400 block Ballard Ave NW to 2-hour parking during the day.
- SDOT staff will communicate the workgroup's comments about PEO behavior to PEO Unit.

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

Randy reported that all the action items created during the January 16, 2004, workgroup meeting had now been addressed (see attached list). Beth reported she had contacted a representative for the Wilson Ford lot on Leary Avenue NW about the possibility of lot sharing to provide parking for area employees and was told that it is not available for leasing. Beth will attempt to follow up this issue as possible. Attendees discussed possible issues regarding this lot should the owner (or their representative) become open to a lot sharing arrangement, such as:

- Would the City allow this lot to be used commercially for monthly parking especially with its use having been interrupted for more than 12 months,
- What is the current zoning and allowed uses (it is covered with crushed gravel which is pervious), and
- What kind of issues of insurance and liability will need to be addressed?

Additionally, an electronic copy of the parking study conducted at the Hiram E. Chittenden Locks and surrounding neighborhood in 2003 has been e-mailed to interested workgroup members and to Rob Mattson who can also make it available upon request.

NO PARKING ON 5400 BLOCK BALLARD AVENUE NW

Randy announced that the “No Parking Tuesdays from 2:30 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. for Streetsweeping” signs had been installed on the 5400 block of Ballard Avenue NW (west side only) – this occurred ahead of schedule. The workgroup had been intending to make a final decision at today’s meeting regarding whether to proceed with permanent signs that prohibit parking weekly on Tuesdays or to shift to a version of signage that would prohibit parking less frequently (e.g. monthly). The group agreed not to oppose the signs as they are and to monitor what happens. Randy agreed to find out if it would be possible to have signs like those in neighborhoods near stadiums that list specific dates when there is no parking, and will also check on the concern that the new No Parking signs on Ballard Avenue NW are too low on the poles to comply with ADA requirements.

CHANGES ON SHILSHOLE AVENUE NW

The workgroup engaged concerns communicated to SDOT from residents living on the 5400 block of Ballard Avenue NW regarding the impact of not being able to park there one evening a week. Discussion centered on exploring if changes could be made on adjacent blocks of Shilshole Avenue NW (24th Ave NW to NW Vernon Pl), such as eliminating the No Parking 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. restriction that had been installed to alleviate the frequent car camping that had been occurring there. Randy will research possible options and present these at the next meeting.

Scott shared that overnight parking restrictions on Shilshole Ave NW had been installed around 4 ½ years ago at the request of adjacent property owners. Some nearby marine businesses employ around 400 temporary and seasonal workers, some of whom were tending to car camp along this area of Shilshole Ave NW.

PROPOSED LOAD ZONE CHANGES ON NW MARKET

Randy presented the revised version of proposed changes to load zones on NW Market between 20th Avenue NW and 24th Avenue NW. Some revisions had been made based on feedback from adjacent businesses who received a copy of the proposal since the workgroup’s February meeting. The workgroup agreed the proposal seemed to be finalized, and Randy will submit it to SDOT Curbside Management for implementation.

METERS ON NW MARKET

The workgroup turned their attention to improving short-term parking on NW Market between 20th Ave NW and 24th Ave NW. These four blocks are not metered although the blocks of NW Market to the east and west are. Mary raised the idea of restricting parking on these blocks to 1-hour (much of these blocks are 2-hour). Randy suggested that the core issue appeared to be getting the desired turnover and speculated that 1-hour restrictions may not be as successful in accomplishing this as would be hoped for. Meters (or the new pay stations) would be much more effective at producing compliance with a 2-hour restriction.

Randy went on to say that if the community wanted to express interest and support for metering these blocks of NW Market, meters that become available from the pay station installation process could be installed here this fall. Downtown Ballard is among the neighborhoods that are scheduled to have pay stations replace meters in the 2005-2006 installation cycle, although at this time no decisions have been made by SDOT that could pinpoint the pay stations installation date more precisely. Therefore Downtown Ballard could see pay stations anywhere from early 2005 to late 2006.

Mary expressed concern that if meters were installed this fall, which would then be replaced by pay stations in 2005 or 2006, it would be a shame to have the relatively new sidewalks have holes drilled, then filled in and painted over once the pay station installation was complete. The group will continue exploring this topic at the next meeting, and Randy will research what the rates would be if meters were to be installed this year.

On the topic of possibly installing meters on Ballard Ave NW at the same time as these four blocks of NW Market, the group believes that the sidewalks would be too narrow to allow meters to be installed without unacceptably constricting pedestrian. Scott liked the idea of considering the addition of pay stations on Ballard Ave NW when pay stations are installed on NW Market.

Kevin shared that Meghan had recently clarified that the installation of pay stations in the lot adjacent to the Hiram E. Chittenden Locks would not take place until August or September of this year (when some construction on the nearby Burke-Gilman Trail would be complete). This is later than the original pay station installation date of June which the City had originally presented. The workgroup expressed strong support that, since the City will be installing paid parking (pay stations) in the lot by the Locks this year, then they would like the City to invest some funds in repairing and improving the surface of that lot.

OTHER ISSUES

Workgroup members expressed interest as to whether the taxi zone on Ballard Ave NW could be converted to regular 2-hour restricted parking during the day consistent with the rest of this block of Ballard Ave NW and continue as a taxi zone in the evening. Randy will explore this with the adjacent property owner(s).

Workgroup members shared some troubling observations and experiences they had heard about or had with some Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs) that have worked the Ballard area. Randy will contact the Parking Enforcement Unit and communicate the concerns.

The workgroup decided to meet again next month on April 16, 2004, at 8:00 a.m. at the Neighborhood Service Center.

Meeting Adjourned